



HR0170

LRB095 11486 KXB 32584 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Arturo Velasquez for his  
4 over seventy years of dedication to his business, family, and  
5 community; and

6           WHEREAS, Arturo Velasquez was born in Tototlan, Jalisco,  
7 Mexico, in November of 1915; he spent his early childhood in  
8 Mexico, immigrating with his mother to the United States at the  
9 age of nine; those early years were spent in the sugar beet  
10 fields in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in Minnesota; and

11           WHEREAS, During the winter of 1929 he arrived in Chicago;  
12 he married Shirley Lozano in 1936; he is the father of Arthur  
13 Raymond, Carmen, Maria Elena, and Edward; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Velasquez founded Velasquez Automatic Music  
15 Company over 70 years ago and continues to lead the business  
16 with his son, Edward, and daughter, Maria; Mr. Velasquez was  
17 instrumental in the founding of the Azteca Lions Club, the  
18 Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Federation  
19 of Mexican Americans, the Mexican American Democrats of Cook  
20 County, and many other community organizations; and

21           WHEREAS, Mayor Richard J. Daley appointed Mr. Velasquez as

1 a Trustee of the City Colleges of Chicago, a position he held  
2 from 1975-1987, serving as Secretary of the Board for several  
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, He has been an organizer and fundraiser for many  
5 local organizations including Holy Cross Church, Cordi Marian  
6 Settlement Home, Holy Trinity High School, City Colleges Latino  
7 Scholarships, Claretian Missionaries, Nihos y Jovenes  
8 Orphanage (Jalisco, Mexico), and Alivio Medical Center; Mr.  
9 Velasquez served as trustee of National Louis University and  
10 received an Honorary Doctorate degree for public service; St.  
11 Xavier also awarded him an Honorary Doctorate degree for public  
12 service; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1999, Arturo Velasquez received the El  
14 Reconocimiento OHTL award from the Mexican government, which is  
15 the highest award to a Mexican who lives outside the country of  
16 Mexico; in 2002, the Chicago Historical Society honored Mr.  
17 Velasquez with the Bertha Honore Palmer History Award for  
18 distinction in Civic Leadership in the City of Chicago;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 thank Arturo Velasquez for his contributions to his community  
23 and the State of Illinois and wish him continued good fortune

1 and happiness in the future; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to Arturo Velasquez as a symbol of our esteem.